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these can be most effectively furnished by mathematical societies. The new Spanish society has an unusually large amount of virgin soil, and the very rapid recent mathematical advances of Italy may inspire the hope that "nascitur non fit" may be applicable to this new society, and that it may have a healthy and rapid growth.

G. A. MILLER

*AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN*¹

THE British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has been in communication with the Development Commissioners with a view to the formulation of a scheme for the promotion of agricultural research and local investigations in England and Wales, and the treasury, on the recommendation of the commissioners, has sanctioned the allocation of funds to be distributed by the board in accordance with the general principles set out below. The total maximum sum which will be expended when the scheme is in full operation will be about £50,000 per annum.

The scheme provides for: (1) A system of agricultural research which will secure for each group of the problems affecting rural industry a share of attention roughly proportional to its economic importance. (2) The concentration of the scientific work on each group at one institution or at institutions working in combination. (3) Grants for special investigations for which provision may not otherwise be made. (4) The grant of scholarships with a view to the increase of the number of men fully qualified to undertake agricultural research. (5) The carrying out of investigations into problems of local importance, especially those involving the application of modern research to local practise, and the provision of scientific advice for farmers on important technical questions.

In making arrangements for the separate investigation, as far as possible, of each group of allied subjects the commissioners and the board have been impressed with the importance of securing continuity in work which is

¹ From the London *Times*.

necessarily of considerable duration, and at the same time of providing staffs of specialists and experts who will be permanently engaged on work arising from the investigation of the same group of problems. By this means concentration and economy of effort will be better secured than it would be if a number of institutions were dealing at the same time with the same group of problems.

It is neither desirable nor possible to prevent all overlapping or duplication of work, but it is obviously necessary to proceed on a plan by which research work subsidized from public funds will not be unnecessarily duplicated. It is also desirable to arrange that each problem shall be undertaken by the institution best fitted to deal with it, and usually by the institution which has specially devoted its attention to problems of an allied nature. It is also important to avoid the giving of undue attention to one part of the field of agricultural research, to the exclusion of other parts which are of equal scientific and economic importance.

With these considerations in view, it has been arranged that grants should be made for research in the following groups of subjects: (1) plant physiology; (2) plant pathology and mycology; (3) plant breeding; (4) fruit growing, including the practical treatment of plant diseases; (5) plant nutrition and soil problems; (6) animal nutrition; (7) animal breeding; (8) animal pathology; (9) dairying; (10) agricultural zoology; (11) economics of agriculture.

THE AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS

THE fourteenth annual session of the American Mining Congress will be held at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Ill., October 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28. The original intention was to have the convention September 26 to 29. President Taft, however, found it would be impossible for him to attend and there arose the possibility that neither Secretary Fisher nor Director Holmes, of the Bureau of Mines, would reach Chicago by that date. The Alaska branch of the congress asked for a

postponement that they might send to the meeting a strong and representative delegation.

President Taft now heads the list of speakers and will address the congress on October 28, on the last day of the convention. Thus given an opportunity to obtain a general idea of the problem confronting the coal, metal and mining men from the speakers who have preceded him, he will be enabled to clearly outline the views of the administration on the various points at issue. The first public statement of the conclusions reached by Secretary Fisher as a result of his Alaskan trip will probably be made at this meeting. Director Holmes, of the Bureau of Mines, will deliver an illustrated address on "Coal Problems." Martin D. Foster, chairman of the house committee on mines and mining, will tell of the "Relation of Congress to the Mining Industry." President B. F. Bush, of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, will present a statement containing revelations of the present conditions of the coal industry, which will be a surprise even to many coal operators.

Governors Spry, of Utah, Carey, of Wyoming, Hawley, of Idaho, and Sloan, of Arizona, supported by a number of other western executives, will lead the discussions of the "Public Lands Questions of the West." They will come to the convention supported by strong contingents of delegates from west of the Mississippi and their views will be defined in no uncertain terms.

In addition to taking up the questions of policy for the opening up of Alaska and the public lands of the west, the general problems of the bituminous coal mining industry as intensified by the demand for better protection to miners and the conservation of fuel resources, will be another of the important issues considered. Of equal interest will be the discussions concerning workmen's compensation for the victims of mining accidents; the prevention of mining accidents; the prevention of waste of the natural resources and the conservation of the energy which now contributes to coal production.

HONORARY DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

THE senatus academicus of the University of St. Andrews has resolved to confer a large number of honorary degrees at the graduation ceremonial to be held in connection with the celebration in September of the 500th anniversary of the foundation of the university. The doctorate of laws will be conferred on the following men of science:

Allbutt, Sir Thomas Clifford, Regius professor of physic, University of Cambridge.

Barlow, Sir Thomas (president and delegate, Royal College of Physicians, London).

Berry, George Andreas, hon. surgical oculist to H.M. in Scotland (delegate, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh).

Borgman, Ivan Ivan, professor of physics (delegate, Imperial University of St. Petersburg).

Bramwell, Byrom, president Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh (delegate, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh).

Brown, Alexander Crum, former professor of chemistry, Edinburgh University (delegate, Royal Society of Edinburgh).

Burbury, Samuel Hawksley, F.R.S., London.

Cameron, Sir Hector Clare, professor of clinical surgery in the University of Glasgow.

Caullery, Maurice Jules Gaston Corneille, professeur de la chaire d'évolution des êtres organisés (delegate, University of Paris).

Gotch, Francis, F.R.S., Waynflete professor of physiology, University of Oxford.

Graff von Pancsova, Ludwig B., professor of zoology (delegate, University of Graz).

Holst, Peter Fredrik, professor of pathology, University of Christiania (delegate, University of Christiania).

Horne, John, F.R.S., director of Geological Survey for Scotland.

Keen, William Williams, professor of surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

Lagerheim, Nils Gustaf, professor of botany, University of Stockholm (delegate, University of Stockholm).

Lamb, Horace, F.R.S., professor of mathematics, University of Manchester.

Larmor, Sir Joseph, F.R.S., Lucasian professor of mathematics, University of Cambridge, secretary of the Royal Society (delegate, Royal Society).